

FEB 11 1976

Honorable Bob Eckhardt
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Re: Your Letter of February 4, 1976
NPDES Permit No. TX0004910 McGinnes
Industrial Maintenance Corporation

Dear Mr. Eckhardt:

After receiving the January 15, 1976 letter from the National Marine Fisheries Service, my staff thoroughly reviewed NPDES permit number TX0004910 (McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation). A copy of our response is enclosed.

As a result of this review we have reached the conclusion that the permit as drafted meets each concern mentioned. However, to assure that no one can misconstrue the permit by "implication" to condone the destruction of the wetlands, the following paragraph will be added.

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to authorize the construction of any levees, dikes, or other structures in waters of the United States as defined by 33 CFR 209.120.

More specifically, McGinnes accepts sludge from the Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority's treatment system by barge and is pumped into holding pits where the solids are retained and the residual supernatant and any stormwater that has fallen in the pits are treated in a series of oxidation ponds and then periodically discharged. The frequency of discharge of these treated liquids is 2 to 3 times per year. Discharge is to the Intercoastal Waterway adjacent to the pond area in Galveston County, Texas; thence into Segment 2424, West Bay in the San Jacinto-Brazos Coastal Basin, which is classified as effluent limited and for contact recreation, noncontact recreation, and propagation of fish and wildlife. The wastewater is retained until the quality is compliant with Texas Water Quality Board Waste Control Order 01221. Personnel from Texas Water Quality Board are notified prior to discharge and they sample to assure wastewater falls within limits of the permit. Duration and volume of discharge are documented by the Texas Water Quality Board.

RETYPE:6AEE:Rasmussen:1983:bs1/15:1983:2/11/76

6AEL	6AEE	6AEP	6AEE	6AE
Hudson	Rasmussen	Dunsavage	Stiebing	Harrison

The proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit tracks with the State Waste Control Order and goes beyond (Part III 2.) by assuring that the pits will not be inundated during hurricane conditions. Also, Part II A. 3, Management Requirements of the permit requires good maintenance and facilities operations of any treatment or control facilities or systems operated by the permittee.

Your continued support for the Environmental Protection Agency and its efforts to protect the environment is very much appreciated. Thank you for your expression of interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. PAUL COMOLA

for John C. White
Regional Administrator

Enclosure